

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice and/or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

14. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a cable comprising:
covering an inside surface of a strip of metal with a catalyst substance;
forming the strip of metal in a shape of a tube;
inserting optical conductor(s) and a filler material into the tube; and
swaging the formed tube after it has been welded.

15. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a cable comprising:
covering an inside surface of a strip of metal with a catalyst substance;
covering the catalyst substance with a hydrogen-absorbent substance;
forming the strip of metal in a shape of a tube, by mutually overlapping longitudinal
margins of the strip of metal; and
gluing the overlapping margins.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, in which the layer of hydrogen-
absorbent substance is used for the gluing.

Please add the following new claims 17-20:

--17. (New) The method of manufacturing a cable according to claim 14, in which the hydrogen-absorbent substance constitutes a filler material for filling the tube.

18. (New) The method of manufacturing a cable according to claim 14, wherein the tube is a substantially gastight metal tube and the catalyst substance is for catalyzing a reaction whereby the filler material is a hydrogen-absorbent substance which absorbs hydrogen, said catalyst substance itself being covered, at least in part, with at least one layer of the hydrogen-absorbent substance.

19. (New) The method of manufacturing a cable according to claim 15, wherein the hydrogen-absorbent substance forms merely a layer deposited on the layer of catalyst substance.

20. (New) The method of manufacturing a cable according to claim 15, wherein the tube is a substantially gastight metal tube and the catalyst substance is for catalyzing a reaction whereby the filler material is a hydrogen-absorbent substance which absorbs hydrogen, said catalyst substance itself being covered, at least in part, with at least one layer of the hydrogen-absorbent substance.--